



### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Adolescent Literacy Coaching Project is to develop a statewide cadre (network) of literacy coaches to support teachers in grades 4-12 by enhancing content area literacy instruction and practice to promote student literacy proficiency.

The Adolescent Literacy Coaching Project (ALCP) is a professional development initiative offered by CCLD in collaboration with the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) and Kentucky's eight public universities. House Bill 93 (2005) provided the funds for training of reading and mathematics coaches. ALCP will provide professional development for teachers of grades 4-12 in content-area literacy and coaching strategies. The eight-day summer academies use the *Standards for Middle and High School Literacy Coaches*, an International Reading Association (2006) publication, as a framework and focus on the following core content:

- Literacy coaching and mentoring
- Strategic planning
- Effective literacy instruction
- Content area literacy strategies.

In addition to the summer academies, the participants attend a two-day content literacy professional development sponsored by KDE. Throughout the academic school year, literacy coaches will participate in monthly professional development and coaching networking sessions. Over the course of two years, the participating literacy coaches earn 12 hours of graduate credit. Currently there are fourteen districts, thirty schools, and four universities participating in this initiative. Each district/school participating has received a mini grant of no less than \$7,000 a year for professional development to implement a school wide literacy plan.

### **What is a Literacy Coach?**

A Literacy Coach is different from a Reading Specialist, which works with groups of struggling readers in small groups or one on one. A Literacy Coach is charged with working with all content area educators to aid them in creating better comprehension for all levels of readers.

Coaches, who work closely with their peers, demonstrate and create ways for teachers in content areas to embed literacy strategies for better student understanding of the text and content material. Coaches can do this through modeling instruction, observing and providing feedback, leading teacher inquiry groups or professional development sessions.

Coaches must also serve as a liaison between instructional leaders, teachers, and administrators. They serve the school's literacy needs by disseminating the data and creating a literacy plan for individual teachers or the entire school.

### **Qualifications of Literacy Coach**

- Strong foundation in literacy
- Strong leadership skills
- Familiarity with adult learning
- Familiarity with learners between 4-12 grade
- Skilled classroom teacher

### **Associated skills**

- School level planner
- Advisor to administration

- Mediator between school, community, and university organizations
- Researcher
- Experience in specific content area
- Strong personal literacy and communication skills
- Presentation skills
- Interpersonal skills

ALCP not only trains Literacy Coaches but is involved in relevant research on the model of embedded coaches with rigorous ongoing support and professional development.

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